

THE MESSENGER

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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The Pastor's

TRAIN



OF THOUGHT

A New Sense of Urgency

Every year around this time, I devote my newsletter column to advice medical folks say can help us stay healthy. This year it seems more urgent than in other years; we will have the normal winter illnesses that will go around, on top of the frightening new pandemic that is still not fully understood.

Media reporting lately seems to be saying Americans are “tired” of hearing about COVID-19, of the precautions we’ve been told can help protect ourselves and others from getting COVID-19 (like masks, avoiding crowds, and social distancing), of restricting our lives to avoid exposure to COVID-19. This is leading some folks to engage in risky behavior, at precisely the time of year when we are always asked to take reasonable precautions to avoid getting a cold or flu.

I want to be clear about a few things. First, *COVID does not care* if we’re tired of hearing about it. COVID does not care if we’re sick of wearing a mask and our hands are chapped from frequent washing and hand sanitizer. COVID doesn’t care if we want life to get back to normal sooner than later. It is still a dangerous illness that has killed almost a quarter million people in this country since February. It is more deadly than the annual flu, and we don’t completely understand yet how it works or how best to treat it. If we don’t keep taking the steps experts say will help us avoid getting COVID, we’re courting disaster.

Those steps, it turns out, are essentially the same ones we know will help keep us from getting colds or flu: frequent handwashing, cleaning surfaces, avoiding large gatherings where the chances of somebody being sick are higher, staying home when we’re not feeling well, and even wearing a mask. (I foresee that wearing masks may become commonplace during flu season even after we’ve finally conquered COVID, and I’m not opposed to that, even though masks are uncomfortable and yes, I dislike foggy glasses as much as anyone else.) We also should, unless we have a compelling medical reason not to do so, get a flu shot. It won’t protect us from COVID, no; but flu is still going to be a problem this year, like it is every year, and any step we can take to keep from catching something is a step in the right direction. And if every one of us does our part to keep ourselves and others safe, the effects could snowball.

The other thing I want us to be absolutely clear on is that *God is still God*, even in the midst of a pandemic. God did not send us COVID; illnesses happen. But God gives us common sense we can use to figure out how to protect ourselves and others. God gifts and empowers scientists working to find good treatments and vaccines, as well as medical professional tasked with caring for those who get sick. God is present even when we feel alone and isolated, whether or not we are ill. God gives us strength to keep going when our own strength runs out. And *God will bring us through this*. We won’t be the same when we get to the other side, but God will.

Let’s trust God and look out for one another during this difficult season.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sharla".



November Serving Schedule



November 1

Elder: Carol Roberts

Greeter: Judy Colburn

Deacon: Denise Burch, Peggy Fuller

Scripture Reader: Shawn Quick

November 8

Elder: Diana Rich

Greeter: Judy Taylor

Deacon: Carol Hedrick, Dale Kinsman

Scripture Reader: Judy Daniel

November 15

Elder: Justin Quick

Greeter: Peggy Thomas

Deacon: Chuck Lewis, Derek Lile

Scripture Reader: Diana Rich

November 22

Elder: Don Malan

Greeter: Carol Roberts

Deacon: Alan Munday, Peggy Fuller

Scripture Reader: Carol Roberts

November 29

Elder: John Daniel

Greeter: Chuck and Carol Lewis

Deacon: Jennifer Schmehl,
Dianna Silvers

Scripture Reader: Peggy Fuller

Music Director: Carol Ann Winburn — **Accompanist:** Mary Coffman

Sound Techs: Phyllis McBrayer, Dianna Silvers, Justin Quick

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Randy Roberts
- 2 June Ray
- 2 Kathy Bunch
- 2 Steve Hedrick
- 7 Rick King
- 10 Larry Burch
- 11 Dylan Fink
- 11 Jeanie Bartimus
- 15 Lyssa Lile
- 15 William Burch
- 17 Joan Swann
- 19 Dale Kinsmen
- 24 Carol Lewis
- 24 Judy Taylor
- 25 Mary Mae Lewis

ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Randy & Carol Roberts
- 11 Don & Debbie Cole

ATTENDANCE

Date	In Sanctuary Worship	Online Live Stream*
October 4	28	8
October 11	28	8
October 18	24	10
October 25	30	6

**If you are joining Sunday worship via Facebook Live, let us know you are tuning in by leaving a comment on the live stream video or visit fccbutler.org and click the Register Attendance button.*

BUDGET

September Income
\$7,087.47

September Expense
\$9,544.85

YTD Income
\$84,694.14

YTD Expense
\$83,112.97

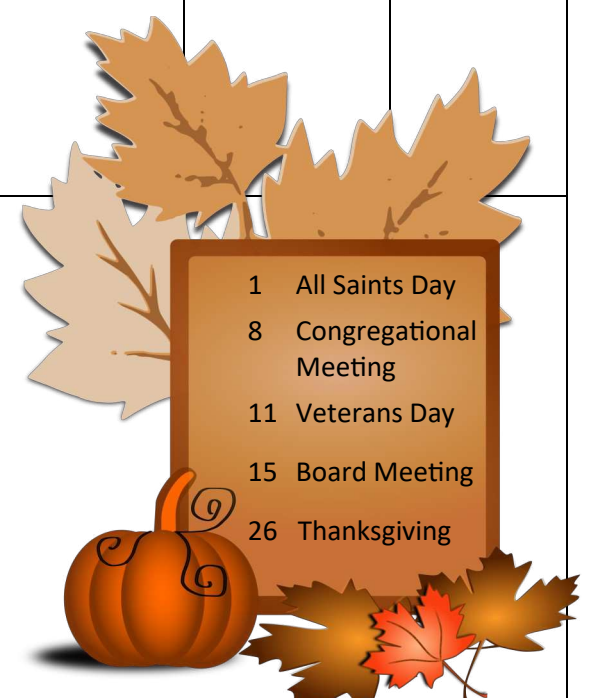
You may view a complete financial report in the church office.



NOVEMBER



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <i>All Saints Day</i> *Daylight Savings Ends	2	3	4 6 p.m. Youth	5	6	7
8 9:20 Prayer 9:30 Worship *Congregational Meeting	9	10	11 <i>Veterans Day</i> 6 p.m. Youth	12	13	14
15 9:20 Prayer 9:30 Worship 11:00 Board Meeting *Thanksgiving Special Offering	16	17	18 6 p.m. Youth	19	20	21
22 9:20 Prayer 9:30 Worship *Thanksgiving Special Offering	23	24	25 No Youth Group	26 <i>Thanksgiving</i>	27	28
29 9:20 Prayer 9:30 Worship	30					



Upcoming Sermons



(Narrative Lectionary, Year 3)

November 1, 2020 (Proper 26)

Scripture: 1 Kings 17:1-24 (RCL: Proper 5, Year C)

Theme: Elijah and the widow of Zarephath

Title: "Imposition"

What I was thinking: While wicked Ahab was king, God sent a drought on Israel, announced by the prophet Elijah. Then, when times really got lean, Elijah invited himself into the home of a poor widow.

November 8, 2020 (Proper 27)

Scripture: Jonah 1:1-7, 3:1—4:11 (RCL: 3:1-5, Epiphany 3, Year B)

Theme: The parable of Jonah

Title: "I'm Mad Too, Jonah"

What I was thinking: The question of whether Jonah could have really been swallowed by a fish misses the point. We will spend some time exploring the actual meaning of the story of Jonah.

November 15, 2020 (Proper 28)

Scripture: Isaiah 6:1-13 (RCL: Trinity Sunday, Year B; Epiphany 5, Year C)

Theme: The call of the prophet Isaiah

Title: "The Soles of God's Feet"

What I was thinking: Too often we stop reading at verse 8 of Isaiah 6, and we go away ready to say, with Isaiah, "Send me!" But after Isaiah volunteers, God warns him exactly what his ministry is going to entail.

November 22, 2020 (Proper 29/Christ the King)

Scripture: Jeremiah 36:1-12a, 13-16, 19-28; then 31:31-34 (RCL: 31:31-34, Lent 5, Year B; Proper 24, Year C)

Theme: Jeremiah's unwelcome call to repentance

Title: "Shooting the Messenger"

What I was thinking: We are reading these two passages from Jeremiah in reverse order from how they're presented in the book. The second of the two we just heard this past summer, but it looks very different when paired with the account in chapter 26.

November 29, 2020 (1st Sunday of Advent)

Scripture: Mark 13:24-37 (RCL: Advent 1, Year B)

Theme: The end of the age

Title: "It's Not Over Till..."

What I was thinking: As Jesus prepared to meet the end of his earthly life, he had some important information for his disciples about what was to come and how to behave while waiting for it.

THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

◆ **Sympathy for the families of**

Carl Shubert, Louise Nichols, Georgia Crist, June McNeece, and Don Padley

◆ **Current & Ongoing**

Bill & Darlene Adcock, Deloris Baldwin, Hailey Baysinger,
Rachel Bittencourt, Aimee Daniel Breiner, Joe & Jean Christopher,
Bill Cumpton, Herschel Ewing, Lona Grosshart, Caleb Hoffard,
Denny Hubbard, Sharon Jones, Sharon Miller Kellogg, JC McHargue,
Debbie Norman, Carol Shutt, Jeannine Stephenson,
Dorothy Thompson, Dusty Warren, Marlene Wainscott



◆ **At Home**

Bud Armstrong, Ruby Cummings, Eula Ghery, Leota Hunt, Julie Lewis

◆ **Currently Serving in the Military**

Jordan Olson, Ryan Strong, Matt Thompson, Josh Thompson



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Youth Group

- ◆ Youth group will meet every Wednesday from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. , as long as school is in session.
- ◆ Open for children grades 3rd-12th.
- ◆ Masks are strongly recommended, but not required.

Sunday Worship

- ◆ You may wear a mask or gloves or whatever other protective gear you wish.
- ◆ The service is being livestreamed on the church's Facebook page. Therefore, we want to ensure that the privacy and wishes of all are respected. For this reason, we have an "OPT-OUT FORM" for those individuals who may prefer NOT to have photographs/videos of themselves used by the church. Also, we ask that all individuals with children in attendance complete and sign a "MINOR'S MEDIA CONSENT FORM". Forms are located in the lobby or contact the office.
- ◆ Enter and exit the building through the west (main) entrance or the elevator entrance only. North door will be locked.
- ◆ To maintain six-foot distance, every other pew is blocked off. Families and couples may sit together but maintain a six-foot distance between groupings within the pews.
- ◆ Offering may also be given via the church's website or the Givelify app. Instructions are pinned to the top of the church's Facebook page and the Donate tab on the church's website.

First Christian Church Board Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2020

Board members present: Deacons- Jennifer Schmehl, Kathy Wood, Alan Munday, and Chuck Lewis, Elders- Carol Roberts, John Daniel, Diana Rich, Don Malan, and Justin Quick. Treasurer- Judy Colburn. Others present: Rev. Sharla Hulsey, Shawn Quick, Everett McBrayer, and Phyllis McBrayer.

Don Malan called the meeting to order at 10:32 AM. He then opened with prayer.

The agenda was adopted on motion of Carol Roberts and second by Kathy Wood.

The minutes of the 09-20-20 meeting were reviewed. The minutes were approved as presented on motion of Alan Munday and second by Diana Rich.

Financial Reports: The September 2020 financial reports including Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Budget Performance sheets as of 09-30-2020 were reviewed. John Daniel reviewed a few items noting year-to-date numbers. The financial reports were approved as presented on motion of Chuck Lewis and second by Diana Rich. Full reports are available in the church office.

Ministers' Report: Rev. Hulsey reviewed her attached report. She noted meetings she attended and a graveside service. She continues to do the morning prayers every day on Facebook Live. She ask that everyone continue to take precautions to avoid catching the COVID virus. Her full report is available in the church office.

Old Business:

Water Damage to sanctuary walls, and choir robe room ceiling Repair Update: Everett McBrayer has almost finished the plaster work needed on the sanctuary walls. He has been doing this work himself. Nothing has been done on the choir robe room ceiling yet. Again, a big Thank You was expressed to Everett for all the extra work he has been doing.

New Business:

Monthly Outreach Payment Schedule Proposal: There was an error noted on the monthly payment amount to the Mid-America Region. This will be re-calculated and returned with the full 2021 budget.

2021 Budget Committee: The full budget is not ready for review and approval today. A special board meeting was called for next Sunday 10-25-2020 for the purpose of reviewing and approving the 2021 budget. This will then be presented at the Congregational meeting on 11-08-2020.

Nominating Committee: Carol Roberts presented the full slate of Deacons, Elders, Board Officers, Endowment Trustees, Pastoral Support Committee, and Emeritus position for 2021. This list was approved on motion of Justin Quick and second by Jennifer Schmehl. This will now be presented at the Congregational meeting on 11-08-2020.

Board Meeting Minutes Cont.

Department/Committee Reports:

Worship: Phyllis McBrayer noted that Community Café has been cancelled for the remainder of this year.

No other reports from committees were given.

Closing Prayer: Rev. Hulsey closed the meeting with prayer.

Adjournment: With no further business brought to the board, the meeting adjourned at 11:10 AM on motion of Diana Rich and second by Justin Quick.

Submitted by: Carol Roberts, (acting) Secretary

2020 Building Fund Drive

The Stewardship Committee is having a building fund drive. There are many repairs that need to be made to our church. This year we are concentrating on the following repairs:

- Repair the north wall of the Fellowship Hall
- Repair the north wall of the Sanctuary
- Repair the ceiling in the Choir Robe Room
- Remove the wall in the Chapel to increase space and storage for PDO

Current donations: \$10,623

Goal: \$40,000



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Return Service Requested

The Messenger

